

Over the past few weeks I have started a new job at Boots and have been thinking about how to have a Christ-like attitude to work.

Colossians 3 and 4 provide some help. While I am not a slave in my new workplace, it is wise advice to follow policies as far as possible and, “obey your earthly masters in everything; and do it, not only when their eye is on you and to curry their favour” (Colossians 3:22). Pleasing people and appearing industrious is useful, but even when I am not being watched I should be working whole-heartedly, to ensure my work is of a high standard.

Colossians 3:23-25 are particularly well-known verses, exhorting us that, “Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as if working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.” Knowing I am serving my heavenly Master as well as the customers and my managers helps me to carry on when things get difficult and give of my best in the workplace.

I love the verse in Colossians 4:6, “Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.” The Christian Medical Fellowship has a course called the Saline Solution, which teaches doctors and medical students how to evangelise with their patients. While it is difficult to fit this in over the counter, using ‘faith flags’ such as commenting on a person’s cross necklace or dog collar may be possible, especially when times are quiet. Providing pleasant conversation to people may also in itself be a good witness.

Finally, I have been trying to use prayer to start and end my days at work. Colossians 4:2 encourages us to, “Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful.” I am thankful I have had the opportunity to learn new skills and further my knowledge of pharmacy. And I am certainly thankful I have prayer and the Lord to support me in what I do there.